Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("———"), as is applicable:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for sharing user information, comprising:

receiving from a user an identification of a level of access that is to be extended to a web site host;

assigning a user code that is pertinent to the identified level of access;

providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host;

receiving from the web site host a request from a web site host for information concerning a the user that has visited a web site maintained by the web site host and the user code that was provided to the web site host;

verifying a authorization of the web site host to receive the information;

determining a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

transmitting user information to the web site host that pertains to the user code such that the web site host can personalize the web site for the user.

2-3.   (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the user code comprises a transient key.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining the level of access comprises comparing the user code provided by the web site host with a user code assigned to the user and relevant to a particular user information set.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting user information comprises transmitting user information from a centralized repository which stores user information for a plurality of users.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting user information comprises transmitting user profile information while withholding personal information about the user.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~8~~ 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ ~~receiving a user code~~ providing a web site host with the user code comprises automatically ~~receiving~~ providing ~~a~~ the user code to the web site host when the user visits the web site.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the user code is automatically appended to a uniform resource locator (URL) of the web site.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~8~~ <u>1</u>, wherein ~~the step of receiving a user code~~ <u>providing a web site host with the user code</u> comprises ~~receiving providing a~~ <u>providing</u> ~~a~~ <u>the</u> user code <u>to the web site host</u> that is manually entered by the user at the web site.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> method ~~for personalizing a web site for a user, comprising:~~ <u>of claim 1, further comprising</u>

~~receiving a user code from a user;~~

~~requesting user information from a centralized repository that stores user information by providing the user code to the centralized repository;~~

~~receiving the user information associated with the user code; and~~

generating a <u>personalized</u> web site based upon the user information that is ~~received~~ <u>transmitted to the web site host</u>.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A system for sharing user information, comprising:

<u>means for assigning a user code that is pertinent to a level of access selected by a user that is to be extended to a web site host;</u>

<u>means for providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host;</u>

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means for receiving ~~a request from a web site host for information concerning a user that has visited a web site maintained by the web site host~~ the user code from the web site host;

~~means for verifying a authorization of the web site host to receive the information;~~

means for determining a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

means for transmitting user information to the web site host that pertains to the user code ~~such that the web site host can personalize the web site for the user~~.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~17~~ 16, wherein the means for determining the level of access comprises means for comparing the user code provided by the web site host with a user code assigned to the user and relevant to a particular user information set.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 16, wherein the means for ~~receiving a user code~~ providing the user code to the web site host comprises means for automatically ~~receiving~~ providing ~~a~~ the user code to the web site host when the user visits the web site.

21.   (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 16, wherein the means for ~~receiving a user code~~ providing the user code to the web site host comprises means for ~~receiving~~ providing ~~a~~ the user code that is manually entered by the user at the web site.

22.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an identification of a level of access comprises receiving selection of one of an anonymous mode in which only profile information and no personal information is provided, and a full disclosure mode in which profile information and personal information is provided.

23.   (New) The method of claim 22, wherein receiving an identification of a level of access further comprises receiving user selection of a category of information to share.

24.   (New) The method of claim 23, wherein receiving user selection of a category comprises receiving user selection of at least one of a personal category, a business category, and a financial category.

25.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning a user code comprises assigning a first code pertinent to an initial level of access to be provided to the web site host and a second code pertinent to a deeper level of access that can be manually provided by the user if desired.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein providing the user code comprises automatically providing the first user code to the web site host when the user visits the web site, and providing the second user code to the web site host if the user chooses to so provide the second user code.